

Nalco Docket No. 7777  
Customer No. 00049459

**REMARKS**

Dunlap: 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

*35 U.S.C. §102(b)*

Claims 1-2, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Dunlap (U.S Patent No. 3,055,496).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Dunlap shows an apparatus containing a heated metal drum having a smooth, inelastic substantially unyieldable surface, a nip roll, a relatively thick continuous rubber compacting belt passing over the nip roll, a heated drum, water spray nozzles positioned underside and outside the belt. (See columns 7-9). In particular, Figure 4 shows a shower (48) that is near a roll, but not a face-side roll.

Claim 1, as amended, requires a chemical shower placed proximate to the face-side roll and on the same side of the face-side roll.

A 102(b) based rejection requires that the prior art teach, inherently or expressly, each element of the claimed invention. Dunlap does not teach "a chemical shower placed proximate to the face-side roll and on the same side of the face-side roll." Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1, as well as claims 2 and 12, which depend upon claim 1, be removed and passed to allowance.

*35 U.S.C. §103*

Claims 1-2, and 12 have been rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Dunlap (U.S Patent No. 3,055,496).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Dunlap shows an apparatus containing a heated metal drum having a smooth, inelastic substantially unyieldable surface, a nip roll, a relatively thick continuous rubber compacting belt passing over the nip roll, a heated drum, water spray nozzles positioned underside and outside the belt. (See columns 7-9). In particular, Figure 4 shows a shower (48) that is near a roll, but not a face-side roll.

Claim 1, as amended, requires a chemical shower placed proximate to the face-side roll and on the same side of the face-side roll.

Nalco Docket No. 7777  
Customer No. 00049459

A 103(a) based rejection requires that all elements of the claimed invention are taught or suggested by the prior art. Dunlap does not teach or suggest "a chemical shower placed proximate to the face-side roll and on the same side of the face-side roll." Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1, as well as claims 2 and 12, which depend upon claim 1, be removed and passed to allowance.

Dunlap in view of Trokhan: 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 3-11 and 13-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Dunlap (U.S. Patent No. 5,073,235) in view of Trokhan (U.S. Patent No. 5,073,235).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Dunlap shows an apparatus containing a heated metal drum having a smooth, inelastic substantially unyieldable surface, a nip roll, a relatively thick continuous rubber compacting belt passing over the nip roll, the heated drum, water spray nozzles positioned underside and outside the belt. (See columns 7-9). In particular, Figure 4 shows a shower (48) that is near a roll, but not a face-side roll.

Trokhan discloses a process for improving the life of papermaking belts containing a cured photosensitive resin. Specially, Trokhan describes how the mechanical application of chemicals to a papermaking belt surface can increase the life of a papermaking belt that comes in contact with a paper web. Trokhan teaches that the chemical can be applied to the surface of a papermaking belt surface that comes in contact with a paper web, preferably at the point when the belt is temporarily not carrying a paper web. In addition, Trokhan also discloses the use of belt cleaning showers that serve to clean the papermaking belt of any paper fines, adhesives, etc.... Trokhan further teaches that on the papermaking belt, the embryonic/paper web will be subsequently deflected, rearranged, and further dewatered. The paper-web contacting surface of the papermaking belt contains a plurality of conduits making it not impermeable. Trokhan also discloses that there are vacuum sources along the papermaking belts inner or unexposed surface, which assist in dewatering a paper sheet.

Nalco Docket No. 7777  
Customer No. 00049459

Claims 3-11 and 13-22 require a belt conditioning apparatus containing an impermeable surface and a chemical shower placed proximate to the face-side roll and on the same side of the face-side roll.

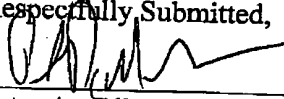
A 103(a) based rejection requires that "there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings." (MPEP 706.02 (j)). The prior art does not teach or suggest a belt conditioning apparatus containing an impermeable surface and a chemical shower placed proximate to the face-side roll and on the same side of the face-side roll. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 3-11 and 13-22 be removed and passed to allowance.

Nalco Docket No. 7777  
Customer No. 00049459

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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